

Appl. No. : 09/945,051
Filed : August 31, 2001
Office Action Date : July 13, 2004
Response Date : September 10, 2004

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments and the following remarks are responsive to the July 13, 2004 Final Office Action for the above-identified patent application. Claims 1-18 were originally pending in this application. Claims 1-4, 6, 10, 11 and 13 were previously canceled herein. Claims 5, 12 and 14 are amended herein to further clarify the claims. Claims 7-9 and 15-18 remain as originally filed. Thus, Claims 5, 7-9, 12, and 14-18 are presented herein for further consideration. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the allowability of Claims 5, 7-9, 12 and 14-18 in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Discussion of the Amended Claims

Independent Claims 5, 12 and 14 are amended herein to clarify the distinctions between the claimed inventions and the cited art, as discussed below.

Brief Summary of the Rejections in the Final Office Action

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 5, 7, 9, 12, 14 and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,567,394 to Arisawa in view of Simon Haykin, *Communication Systems*, Second Edition, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1983, pages 158-159 and U.S. Patent No. 5,649,296 to MacLellan. The Examiner rejects Claims 8 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arisawa in view of Haykin and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 4,799,059 to Grindahl et al. The Examiner rejects Claims 6 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arisawa in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,649,296 to MacLellan et al.

Response to Rejections in the Final Office Action

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections of the pending claims. In particular, the Examiner relies on MacLellan to suggest that it is common in RFID systems using half duplex techniques to transmit an interrogation signal and then transmit a continuous wave

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(CW) radio signal to the tag using modulated backscattering (MBS). Although MBS is a commonly used technique, Applicants' claimed inventions are patentably distinguished over MacLellan in combination with Arisawa and Haykin because the base station in MacLellan transmits the CW signal to the tag continuously after transmitting a message to the tag. MacLellan does not teach or suggest termination of the transmitting operation of the CW signal in order to save power.

In contrast to MacLellan, in Applicants inventions, as defined by the amended claims, the base station outputs the carrier signal until there is a response from the mobile station. According to the claimed technique, the mobile station is able to modulate the carrier provided by the base station with a data signal to be transmitted to the base station at any time except when the mobile station is receiving an information signal from the base station. Furthermore, the base station is able to save power by outputting the carrier signal only until it receives the response from the mobile station. Once the response is received, no further response is expected from the mobile station until the next interrogation signal is sent. Thus, the base station is able to stop sending the carrier signal without any risk of not receiving data to be sent by the mobile station.

The foregoing operational features of Applicants' claimed inventions are not disclosed or suggested by the combinations of references cited by the Examiner.

Request for Allowance of the Claims

In view of the amended claims and the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that pending Claims 5, 7-9, 12 and 14-18 are patently distinguished over the cited references, and Applicants respectfully request allowance of Claims 5, 7-9, 12 and 14-18.

Request for Telephone Interview

Applicants have made a good faith effort to respond to the January 21, 2004 Office Action in order to place this application in condition for immediate allowance. Nevertheless, if any undeveloped issues remain or if any issues require clarification, the Examiner is respectfully

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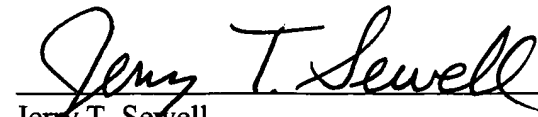
requested to call Applicants' undersigned attorney of record at 949-721-2849 (direct line) or at the general office number listed below in order to resolve such issues promptly.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: SEPTEMBER 10, 2004

By:


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